

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 INT-05 EB-07 FPC-01 TRSE-00 EPA-04

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R 271755Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1913

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0192

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV,CA

SUBJECT: GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT

1. GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT WAS SUBJECT OF SEVERAL SMALL AND SCATTERED ITEMS IN WINNIPEG'S DAILIES MAY 26:

-- ITS WAS ANNOUNCED THAT IJC REPORT WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL MID-JULY.

-- A BRIEF AP STORY FROM WASHINGTON REPORTED THAT HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT DOLS 18.1 MILLION BE SPENT IN FY 78 FOR CONTINUED WORK ON GARRISON PROJECT, BUT ONLY AFTER IJC REPORT IS ISSUED.

-- THERE WAS DISCUSSION IN MANITOBA LEGISLATURE ABOUT WHAT THE PROVINCE WOULD DO IF IJC REPORT SUPPORTS ORIGINAL PROJECT RATHER THAN PRESIDENT CARTER'S MODIFIED PLAN -- WITH SUGGESTIONS BY LIBERAL OPPONENTS THAT THE PROVINCE REQUEST YET ANOTHER STUDY IF THAT HAPPENS.

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2. DISCUSSION ON FLOOR OF HOUSE WAS INSTRUCTIVE AS MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SIDNEY GREEN EXPOUNDED KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY IN DEALING WITH GARRISON:

-- IF ANY FURTHER ACTION IS TAKEN BY MANITOBA, IT WILL BE AFTER

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CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN OTTAWA.

-- IF MANITOBA DOES CONSULT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON GARRISON, IT WON'T MAKE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS "BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THE AMERICANS TO READ ABOUT SUCH A MOVE IN THE NEWS-PAPER FIRST."

-- NOTING THAT THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN RATHER SUCCESSFUL BY "PLAYING IT COOL" RE GARRISON, GREEN CAUTIONED AGAINST MANITOBA BEING

SEEN AS EAGER TO ALTER THE GARRISON PROJECT.

-- IF THE PRESIDENT'S MODIFIED PLAN PLUS SOME PROTECTION AGAINST ACCIDENTS AND EFFECTS ON THE RED RIVER ARE ADOPTED, GREEN SAID MANITOBA'S CONCERNS OVER GARRISON WILL BE SOLVED BEYOND WHAT THE PROVINCE THOUGHT WOULD OCCUR.

3. COMMENT: GARRISON HAS BEEN A MATTER OF LESS PUBLIC CONCERN EVER SINCE THE IJC HEARINGS WERE COMPLETED IN MARCH AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S MODIFICATIONS WERE ANNOUNCED IN MID7APRIL. WITH SO MANY PLAYERS IN THE GAME (ALL THREE BRANCHES OF U.S. FED GOVT, PLUS STATE AND LOCAL GOVTS, PLUS CANADIAN GOVT ENTITIES, NOT TO MENTION IJC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS), PEOPLE HAVE A HARD TIME FOLLOWING THE ACTION. BUT, DESPITE DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS, MOST MANITOBANS HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR INTERESTS ARE BEING WELL PROTECTED, NOT ONLY BY THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES, BUT BY MANY AMERICANS AS WELL, AND IN PARTICULAR BY THE PRESIDENT.
HUTSON

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SAS ID: 2564144
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: SENV, CA
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